



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 595**

*January Session, 2003*

Substitute House Bill No. 6038

*House of Representatives, April 30, 2003*

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. LAWLOR of the 99th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONFINEMENT AND TETHERING OF DOGS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 53-247 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
3 *October 1, 2003*):

4 (a) Any person who overdrives, drives when overloaded,  
5 overworks, tortures, deprives of necessary sustenance, mutilates or  
6 cruelly beats or kills or unjustifiably injures any animal, or who,  
7 having impounded or confined any animal, fails to give such animal  
8 proper care or neglects to cage or restrain any such animal from doing  
9 injury to itself or to another animal or fails to supply any such animal  
10 with wholesome air, food and water, or unjustifiably administers any  
11 poisonous or noxious drug or substance to any domestic animal or  
12 unjustifiably exposes any such drug or substance, with intent that the  
13 same shall be taken by an animal, or causes it to be done, or, having

14 charge or custody of any animal, inflicts cruelty upon it or fails to  
15 provide it with proper food, drink or protection from the weather, or  
16 confines or tethers a dog for an unreasonable period of time or  
17 abandons it or carries it or causes it to be carried in a cruel manner, or  
18 fights with or baits, harasses or worries any animal for the purpose of  
19 making it perform for amusement, diversion or exhibition, shall be  
20 fined not more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than  
21 one year or both.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	October 1, 2003

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

The new language in the bill was moved for purposes of clarity.

**ENV**      *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

JUD

**JUD**      *Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Type	FY 04 \$	FY 05 \$
Judicial Dept.; Correction, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	Less than 50,000	Less than 50,000
Judicial Dept.	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Less than 2,000	Less than 2,000

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill specifies that the confinement or tethering of a dog for an unreasonable period of time constitutes a crime of cruelty to animals. It is anticipated that this change would not substantially alter the number of offenses and subsequent convictions each year.<sup>1</sup> Any fiscal impact related to revenue from fines, cost of enforcement and incarceration or court supervision, is expected to be minimal.

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<sup>1</sup> In FY 02 there were 194 such offenses with 55 convictions. Three people are presently incarcerated for committing the crime of cruelty to animals; fifty-eight are on probation. Seven fines were imposed during FY 02 for a total of \$3,400.

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**OLR Bill Analysis**

sHB 6038

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONFINEMENT AND TETHERING OF DOGS***

**SUMMARY:**

Under this bill, anyone who confines or tethers a dog for an unreasonable period of time commits the crime of cruelty to animals and is subject to a fine up to a \$1,000, a year imprisonment, or both. By law, anyone who has charge or custody of an animal commits the crime of cruelty to animals if he abandons it or fails to provide it with proper food, drink, and protection from the weather.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference

Yea 24      Nay 3

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 35      Nay 1